

Report 07.771
Date 20 November 2007
File WO/02/01/26

Committee Catchment Management
Author Ian Gunn, Integrated Catchment Advisor

Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme - Hearings Committee

1. Purpose

To select a Hearings Committee to hear and consider submissions received to the proposed Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) rating review.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme has been in place since the early 1980's. Construction commenced in 1963 and it was completed in 1982. Since that time only minor changes to the rating classification have occurred. A review of the rating scheme is long overdue.

The rating review was commenced in 2004. It has been complicated and has been delayed by the flood events of 2004, 2005 and 2006. A LWVDS Review Committee has met at regular intervals and newsletters have been forwarded to all ratepayers. There have been two series of extensive public meetings. The last series was completed in April of this year.

At the October 2007 Policy, Finance and Strategy meeting the Committee received Report 07.636 and recommended that Council:

- (a) *Agrees to commence the Special Consultative Process for finalising the on the proposed new rating classification for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.*

(b) Notes the proposed timetable for consultation.

(c) Approves the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Proposal for public consultation.

4. Special Consultative Process

Submissions on the proposed new rating classification closed at 5.00pm on Monday, 19 November 2007. In total 26 submissions have been received. At least five submitters wish to be heard.

5. Hearings Committee

It is normal that a Hearings Committee of three be formed to hear submissions. It is suggested that the Hearings Committee comprise:

- Cr Ian Buchanan (Catchment Management Committee Chair).
- Mark Lovett (Chairperson of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme). Mark has chaired the review process to date.
- One other member from the Catchment Management Committee.

The Hearings Committee will report back to the Catchment Management Committee with recommendations for finalising the new rating classification.

6. Communication

All ratepayers will be informed of the outcome of the Hearings Committee once the Council has adopted a new rating classification for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.

7. Conclusion

A Hearings Committee is required to complete the Special Consultative Process prior to the adoption of a new rating classification for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Appoints** a Hearings Committee comprising Cr Ian Buchanan, Mr Mark Lovett, and one other, to hear and consider the submissions received.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Ian Gunn
Integrated Catchment Advisor

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management